

Introduction to CNDS

In 2008, the Division of Aging and Adult Services applied to join and was accepted as a member of the NC DHHS Common Name Data Service (CNDS). CNDS is a shared repository of a few key pieces of demographic data on DHHS clients in which member agencies agree to use a common Person ID and avoid creating duplicate entries. Since our first priority in 2008 was to resolve glitches in the new web-based ARMS system, we were not able at that time to proceed with interfacing our client tracking system with CNDS but now the time has come.

During FY 2011 we have the opportunity to implement the ARMS/CNDS interface, as well as make technical changes to allow the ARMS data to be stored in the DHHS Client Services Data Warehouse. This project will help eliminate duplicate and inactive records in ARMS and will be a great step forward in ensuring the integrity of client data. The process will involve the matching of our client list to the Person IDs that already exist in the CNDS, because some of our clients already are being served by Public Health, Mental Health, Medicaid, Social Services, or Vocational Rehabilitation. If there is no clear match with an existing ID, a new one will be assigned. In support of the goal to use existing IDs and avoid creating duplicate entries, the matching process will allow us to use an existing ID whenever possible but it also will require us to reconcile any data differences between the information in ARMS and the information in CNDS.

Much of this matching and cleanup work has been taking place at the state level this fall, but some of it must be done at the regional and provider level. Every Area Agency on Aging in North Carolina has been asked to assist with this process and has begun working with local providers to evaluate specific lists of client "matches, close matches, and non-matches."

In the end, the importance of any data we collect and track is related to its usefulness for program management, accountability, and advocacy. The Division greatly appreciates your cooperation in this important effort as we begin the process of adding our clients and services to the broader picture of home and community-based services being delivered by NC DHHS.

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